

14 September 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for
Collection Tasking

FROM:

Director, Office of HUMINT Tasking

SUBJECT: Comments on STAP Action Program

REFERENCE: STAP Memorandum of 5 September 1978,
Regarding Planning for Future Activities

1. The Office of HUMINT Tasking, in coordination with the Secretariats of the Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee (STIC) and the Information Handling Committee (IHC), is presently addressing most of the topics that the Science and Technology Advisory Panel (STAP) will be concerned with in the months ahead, so we should be able to assist STAP in many ways. We are well into investigating specific problem areas and opportunities for improvement of HUMINT procedures relative to open source collection, including collection supportive of S&T production. This work is being done by a fact finding open source collection (OSCOL) working group which is reporting its findings and recommendations to the Chairman and members of the Human Resources Committee (HRC) for interagency action. We plan to proceed on this course in collaboration with STIC and other interested organizational entities, and can extend that coordination as appropriate to the STAP.

2. Reviewing the individual investigative elements of the proposed STAP action program we question the statement concerning processing of open source information (Reference, Para 2, e). It is inaccurate to say that "processing of overt source information is almost nonexistent." The specific processing tasks referred to here (sorting out material by topic, target or national requirement, collating or "batching" it for specific production offices etc.) is performed on a very large scale for DoD consumers within the DoD Scientific and Technical Intelligence Information Services Program (STIISP), and on a more modest scale at FBIS and the Library of Congress' Federal Research Division. There are

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opportunities for improvement in these programs, to be sure, and some changes may be desirable to make the benefits of each program more easily accessible on a Community-wide basis. We have noted, for example, that within the STIISP program package, collection and processing of S&T information concerning western countries has been reduced in recent years for budget reasons. We will be examining this consideration with the STIISP managers at an early date.

3. In some quarters there is support for some form of highly centralized management of all aspects of collection and processing of open source materials. Our approach is to determine whether the present system can be tuned to do the job effectively with existing resources. At this stage of our review, we believe that it can.



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